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# homemakers' chat

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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Subject: "LONGER LIFE FOR LITTLE ACCESSORIES" Information from the Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Your gloves, your handbag, your umbrella--accessories like these may not be the most important items of your wardrobe, but even they deserve extra care these days. When they give out, new ones may be harder to get than the strict necessities of clothing.

So today the clothing specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture offer a few suggestions on how to make such accessories last. To begin with, they suggest that the habit of losing gloves and umbrellas is a good one for American women to break. For years now stray gloves and umbrellas have been two of the commonest items to find their way to the lost and found departments of stores, railroads, bus and street car lines. If you are inclined to carry gloves and then lose them, one way to start curing yourself is to invest in a special little glove-holder that you attach to your purse. You can buy glove-holders at most notion counters. Sewing a name tape on the inside seam of each glove may help you get your gloves back, if you do lose them. Many schools require that children's names be sewn inside their glove or mittens, or pasted on galoshes and umbrellas. That's an idea you could easily apply to all members of the household.

When you select gloves in the store, see that they fit well and they'll wear longer. Be sure the fingers are comfortably long and that the gloves are wide enough through the palm. If you carry packages constantly, -- and who doesn't these days, to save deliveries?, -- choose strong sturdy gloves, whether they are leather or fabric. Save your kid, suede and other more delicate gloves for dress occasions.

Have you ever noticed how a salesperson tries gloves on you? Take a tip from



her and put yours on the same way. Ease fingers on first, then thumb and palm. If you tug and pull at the glove material, you strain both the seams and the fabric. Turn rings so that the settings are toward the palm of your hand.

The best way to take most gloves off is to ~~loosen~~ each fingertip, turn the cuff back over the fingers and draw the gloves off. Suede gloves are an exception to this rule. Try to work suede gloves off easily without turning back the cuff or pulling the fingertips. Wherever you pull on the suede it gets worn and shiny. After you take off a pair of gloves, pull them gently into shape. Blow into the fingers, and lay the gloves in tissue paper in a flat box.

Don't let your gloves get too dirty before you clean them. Some gloves you can wash,--others need dry cleaning. Save any special cleaning directions that come with a pair of gloves. Never try to wash a pair of gloves unless they are marked "washable". Once a pair of leather gloves has been dry-cleaned, you can't wash them.

If gloves are definitely washable, you can usually wash them best while they are on your hands. But chamois or doeskin gloves are an exception. These two materials have to be washed off the hands, or they will stretch. Wash in mild, lukewarm suds. Do not rub or brush them. Work the gloves up and down in the suds, and squeeze the suds through them. Rinse in soft water until the water is free from soap. Roll the gloves in a Turkish towel to take up extra water. Shape them, blow into the fingers, and lay on a towel away from heat or sunlight. Just before the gloves are dry, work them onto the hands to shape and soften them, then take them off and lay them out to finish drying.

Watch for rips in your gloves and mend them promptly before they have a chance to become larger. Always use cotton thread in sewing leather. Silk thread will cut the leather and pull out.

Now for some points on caring for handbags. First and foremost--don't stuff





your bag. That spoils the shape, weakens the fastenings, and may break the seams or cause things in the bag to catch on the zipper. Don't carry your bag so that it rubs constantly against buckles or buttons. Don't let a good bag get wet by rain or snow. Learn to open zippers correctly, gently.

Keep cosmetics in a special case to protect your handbag lining. Cover pencil and pen tops to avoid marking the bag. When you put a bag away and change to another, stuff crumpled tissue paper inside the bag to help hold its shape. Wrap the bag in soft old cloth like old sheeting. Wrap silver and gold evening bags in black tissue paper to keep them from tarnishing.

About cleaning bags: Clean white leather bags like white leather shoes, with a suitable commercial cleaner. Clean natural colored bags with saddle soap. Colored leather bags are difficult to clean. Art gum sometimes works. Patent leather bags need special protection against cracking. Warm a new one with the palm of your hand before you open it. Don't let the bag get too hot or too cold. Clean with patent cream. Suede bags are easy to clean with a rubber sponge. You can brush them lightly with a wire suede brush to raise the nap. Brighten metal trim with silver polish. Many people like to put a light coating of clear nail polish on the bag metal when the bag is new, to protect it from tarnish and scratching.

Finally, a few pointers on caring for umbrellas. You may be a bit superstitious about umbrellas, but it's better to leave them open, even in the house, than to have them mildew and rust after a wetting. A silk umbrella that's not used for a long time, needs a shower bath once in a while. Clean a silk umbrella by brushing it with a soft cloth.

Clean an oil-silk umbrella by washing with mild soap and water. Rinse off, and dry in the shade before closing. Handle oil silk umbrellas very carefully in cold weather or the oil silk will stiffen and crack easily.

To clean colored cotton umbrellas, just brush them off. When you carry an umbrella of any kind closed, keep the strap buttoned to prevent the ribs from catching and bending. Hang your umbrella up in the closet, to keep it from sliding around on the closet floor.

